

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. This Response addresses each point of rejections raised by the Examiner and Applicant respectfully traverses all the rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hecksel et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,151,707; "Hecksel") in view of Colyer et al (U.S Patent No. 6,745,196; "Colyer").

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, "a to-be-registered information generating section that receives individualized specification information from *each of the plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals* which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individualized specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by that company for the multi-component product." The Examiner again admits that the noted features of claim 1 are not disclosed in Hecksel (See Office Action: page 4). However, after having withdrawn the previous 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection based on the secondary reference JP '996, the Examiner now asserts that Colyer makes up for the deficiencies of Hecksel. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that Colyer reference is in the field of a nonanalogous art. Colyer generally relates to a system and a method for building a database that stores information representative of the organizational structure of a community of users of a computer network. (See Colyer: col. 1, lines 12-14; col. 2, lines 16-19). As such, Colyer reference simply does not

deal with user registration of a multi-component products. Colyer reference does not at all describe user registration of any products. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Colyer reference is a nonanalogous art and that the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection on claim 1 should be withdrawn (See MPEP § 2141.01 (a)).

Further, Colyer fails to teach or suggest the “to-be-registered information generation section” that receives individualized specification information from each of the *plurality of companies*, wherein the individualized specification information specifies the data needed by each company for *registering* that company’s portion of a multi-component product, as recited in claim 1.

In Colyer, there is simply no “*multi-component product* including a plurality of component provided by a plurality of companies” to be registered. In other words, Colyer lacks any teaching or suggestion of simultaneously generating registration information for each component of a *multi-component product* based on individualized registration information for each component. Colyer seeks to map out the organizational structure of online communities (102a, 102b...) by describing the user interaction within each community (See Colyer: Figure 1A; col. 6, lines 20-53). To that end, Colyer describes users in each community registering with the computer application service 108 (See Colyer: col. 6, lines 56-60). However, such registration of users is merely incidental to mapping out the organizational structure of the online community, and Colyer fails to disclose or suggest at least the sending of individualized specification information from a plurality of companies for the purpose of extracting *registration information*.

In addition, because Colyer does not deal at all in the registration of a multi-component product, Colyer fails to disclose or suggest a *plurality of companies* which send specification information for the purpose of extracting registration information. The Examiner's assertion that Colyer discloses the noted features of claim 1 seems to be loosely based on the fact that Colyer describes the interaction between the employees of a particular business and suppliers and customers from various businesses (See Colyer: col. 2, lines 19-22). However, Colyer unambiguously states that such interactions are between *users* of the online community which are utilized to map out the organizational structure of the community of users (See Colyer: col. 2, lines 22-29, "The invention uses an online computer applications service that facilitates the initiation and completion of transactions between *users* [emphasis added] in the community (e.g., subordinates and managers in the business or between purchasers in one business and suppliers in another) over a computer network such as the internet."). Employees, suppliers and customers of the business are all merely an example of *users* within the online community. As it is plainly shown in Figure 1A of Colyer, there is simply *no plurality of companies* sending specification information for the purpose of extracting registration information (See Colyer: Figure 1A; col. 2, lines 15-32).

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Colyer fails to make up for the admitted deficiencies of Hecksel. In sum, neither Hecksel nor Colyer, either alone or in combination teaches or suggest the noted features of claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner failed to supply a motivation to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner. Particular

findings must be made as to the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these components for combination in the manner claimed by the Examiner (See *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1371 (Fed. Cir. 2000)). A broad conclusionary statement, standing alone without support, is not “evidence” (See *In re Zurko*, 258 F.3d 1379, 1386 (Fed. Cir. 2001)).

The Examiner merely states in a single sentence that combining Hecksel with Colyer would allow the teachings of Hecksel to provide a system for deriving the structure of a community whose people interact with one another on a computer network through a computer application service (See Office Action: page 5). The Examiner merely states to such effect *without* providing any reason why one ordinarily skilled in the art would be motivated to modify the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

Absent a clear basis of support for the motivation either implicitly or explicitly from statements in the prior art, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or the nature of a problem to be solved, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner failed to make a prima facie case of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) (See *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999 (Fed. Cir. 1999); MPEP 2143). Applicant again respectfully points out that Colyer does not even deal with registration of multi-component products. Based on such *factual* finding that Colyer is completely silent on the nature of a problem being addressed by the Applicant’s invention, Applicant respectfully submits that one ordinarily skilled in the art would more likely than not, not be led to combine Colyer with Hecksel in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Hecksel in view of Colyer. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

With respect to claim 11, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is patentable for at least reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. That is, the combination of Hecksel and Colyer fails to teach or suggest the receipt of individualized specification information for a specific component of a multi-component product and the simultaneous generation of registration information for each component based on the received individualized specification information.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is patentable over Hecksel in view of Colyer. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 11.

With respect to claim 21, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable for at least reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable over Hecksel in view of Colyer.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

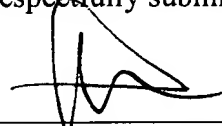
Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/838,342

Attorney Docket No.: Q64164

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Wooseob Shim
Registration No. 56,995

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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